

Minutes of the Tuesday, December 7, 2010 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:22 pm on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, R. Barrett, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Hoag, D. Stillinger, Don Travisano (future new member) and Associate CTEC members Shankar Krishnan and Subashree Rajagopal and PATCH reporter Elizabeth McGuire.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2010 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). It has been sent to the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

Minutes from November 2, 2010 were not available for approval at this meeting.

GRATEFUL THANKS TO SUE HOAG, OLE RAADAM AND DICK BARRETT AS THEY LEAVE CTEC. We're grateful for their time, expertise, and support for CTEC's mission. Thanks, Sue, Ole, and Dick, and please stay involved as Associate Members!

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2010 AND JANUARY 2011.

Every first Tuesday except no meeting in July at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township municipal building. The remaining date is Jan 11, 2011.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:30-7:48)

Commission members discussed and decided it would be best to establish a subcommittee consisting of Steve, Don, Shankar, Kathy, Pat and Frank. Silver and bronze options reviewed. Meeting dates will be establish and reviewed at each CTEC meeting.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Goodman. 11-23-10. Block 14, Lot 61.01. 31 Long Hill Lane. LOI application. A letter to NJDEP regarding setbacks of backyard pond, vegetation, etc. will be circulated for edits before being sent.

NEW. Verizon Wireless. 11-16-10. Block 48.14 Lot 110 (the Gazebo lot on Southern Blvd.) Application to Board of Adjustment for use, setback and height variances to erect antennas on an existing PSE&G tower. NJDEP has granted a GP#2 (work on utility lines) for disturbance of 510 s.f. of wetlands near the rear of the parking lot to put a utility line underground, and there will be a non-staffed equipment shed that will be visited for maintenance once a month. Applicant has obtained all required documents from NJDEP and US Fish & Wildlife Service. In 2009 Township Forester John Linson commented, "If it (the equipment shed) looks like a disguised wireless equipment shelter, it will permanently diminish the aesthetic value of the park. If the building is redesigned to fit the park, few people will ever notice it." Suggest CTEC send a memo to Board of Adjustment suggesting careful shed design, monitoring of work to ensure wetlands are not disturbed beyond that allowed, submission of landscape plan for revegetation in area of disturbance with a provision of no use of herbicides in any future vegetation maintenance. Wetlands will be disturbed. S. Carroll motioned to approve memo to Board of Adjustment and F. Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor (will be circulated for email edits).

PENDING. Revised Metro PCS application for a GP2 (utility work) for cell tower equipment at public works site. CTEC will check site.

CLOSED. Application for LOI, 10-7-10, PSE&G, right-of-way in Chatham Township in the GSNWR and extending to the gazebo, Pine Street, Shunpike and Woodland Road. This area lies within the PSE&G Branchburg-Roseland ROW. Current plans for that ROW call for existing lines to be upgraded and two new underground 230 kV cables to be installed. The

proposed construction will cause short-term disturbance but could result in long-term stability of the ROW environment. Letter to NJDEP sent.

CLOSED. T-Mobile Northeast, LLC. 11-4-10. Block 48.21, Lot 179. 529 Green Village Road. Revised plans. Application to Board of Adjustment to install antennas on an existing cell tower at the Green Village Road firehouse and to install equipment into the existing Verizon shed. Verizon and ATT have equipment at the site. The plans show the wetlands boundary in the vicinity of the proposed construction, something that was missing from the initial Verizon application. Suggest no action required by CTEC since environmental issues were commented on previously in connection with the Verizon application in 2008.

CLOSED. Biggs. 9-13-10. Block 63, Lot 5.02. 601 River Rd. Application to NJDEP for General Permit for clearing of trees. For a GP#25 to replace a failing septic system, revised design has been approved by the Board of Health. Approved by the DEP on 10-28-10. No action needed by CTEC.

PENDING. Application to Board of Adjustment, application complete on 7-22-10, 28 Ormont Road, Block 8, lot 4, Gunn. Steep slope, front & rear yard variances to construct a single family dwelling. Site visit was on Saturday, November 6 and was heard by the Board on November 18. Continued to December. Carroll motion to approve memo to Board of Adjustment and P. Collington 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

PENDING. Application to Board of Adjustment. Steve Lin & Laurie Huang, 27 Susan Drive, Block 20, Lot 19. Steep slope disturbance beyond what was allowed, request for variances. No progress made at Board of Adjustment meeting on November 18 - applicant did not present plans with any details of how the restoration will be carried out. Downslope neighbors have been impacted by stormwater. Board of Adjustment is fully aware of all the issues. CTEC's memo to the Board of Adjustment on 1-8-07 is still relevant. CTEC will continue to monitor.

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. Application to Planning Board. Longview Road. April 26, 2010. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn concept plan for 8 lot subdivision on Longview Road. Nothing to comment on as of this date.

PENDING. CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL. 700 Shunpike Road. Block 135, Lots 1 & 9. Next Board of Adjustment hearing on December 16 at 7:30 PM. It would be helpful if a CTEC member could attend and ask why they decided to go with the costly remediation plan involving tree loss and slope disturbance instead of an Institutional Control which would be a conservation easement agreement with the NJDEP that would involve no physical disturbance on the site, only a discreet fence with a small sign and possibly an agreement to allow passive recreation.

## REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio – Public hearing for the new open space and land use element of the Master Plan passed with minor changes. The changes will be reviewed before voting at next meeting date of 1/10/11.

Township Committee report. No report.

Open Space Committee report. S. Hoag. – working on open space plan, County approved 2 of 3 open space applications.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington, K. Abbott. – Received approval from State for \$25,000 Sustainable Jersey composter rocket at high school, established 6 Environmental Clubs within the Chatham School District, Girl Scouts with the help of community outreach presented their recycling project to the Township Committee, updated landscaping and pesticide free brochure on township website.

Recycling Committee report. P. Collington, K. Abbott. At the November 18 Township Committee meeting the Girl Scouts presented their recycling project to the Township Committee. The inkjet/toner recycling program and the battery recycling program have been terminated by the Township unexpectedly, the costs for the Township's battery program for 2009 and 2010 were taken out of CTEC's budget. big box drop off program has been dropped. Single stream recycling is still in the review process.

Website Committee report. F. Esposito - Selected documents concerning pending land use projects to be added on township website.

## DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- CTEC 2011 calendar and budget. Every first Tuesday at 7:15 PM ( Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7, July no meeting, Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6 in 2011 and Jan 3, 2012). F. Esposito motioned to accept the 2011 calendar and P. Collington 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

Budget must include \$1,375 for minutes secretary and about \$400 for ANJEC membership with workshop plan. Review budget items and amounts by email, include past repeating history for 2011 budget items. Chairperson requests each committee submit annual report of the past year's accomplishments.

- Water conservation plan in condominiums. R. Barrett. – 3 out of the 4 associations can provide copies of water bills for comparison. Legislation may be considered to provide for multi family homes to have individual meters, this is to assist owner/landlord with tenant issues.
- Business cards for CTEC members. F. Esposito. In progress.
- Change location of spring cleanup (possibly to a non-kid-friendly site), possibly to CT property with NJCF conservation easement on Green Village Road. That property connects to Kirby and Platt, and Platt connects to Loantaka Park, so a cleanup would support any plans the Open Space Committee might have for a nature trail or greenway across Kirby.
- The \$20K EECBG (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program) from the State. Chatham is eligible and the application was submitted well before the deadline of December 31. D. Travisano.

## ISSUES

Vegetation and herbicide management plan for utility rights-of-way. The CTEC ROW Subcommittee (currently K. Abbott, D. Stillinger, and Phyllis Fast from Long Hill) are proposing to develop a plan for Chatham Township with the possibility of enlisting Long Hill and Chatham Borough as events unfold. The first subcommittee meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 1 PM at the Chatham Township municipal building. Anyone with an interest in the issue is invited to attend.

## RECENT LETTERS SENT

- November 2010. Letter to NJDEP commenting on PSE&G's LOI application for certain ROWs, memo to Board of Adjustment concerning variances requested for steep slope disturbance at 28 Ormont Road.
- October 2010. Letter of support for GSWA's 319(h) grant application to NJDEP for remediation in the area of Kitchell Pond and Loantaka Brook.

## GRANTS

- A Sustainable Jersey grant funded by Wal-Mart for \$25,000 was received by the Environmental Education and Outreach Committee for a food composter for the schools and for educational material about composting.
- CTEC has been granted a free copy of ArcView for 2011 by the ESRI Corporation. Any EC member is welcome to use it.

## EVENTS

- Thursday, December 9, 10 AM. Ground Water Protection Committee. Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Ave., Morristown.
- Saturday, March 19, 2011. Annual New Jersey Conservation Foundation Rally. NJConservation.org.

## MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Congratulations to CTEC from the Passaic River Coalition on achieving Sustainable Jersey certification.
- Notice of upcoming workshops from ANJEC. Flyers & newsletters from ESRI.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary